

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of the Semi-Annual)
Report of the PCIA Microwave)
Clearinghouse Regarding Operation)
of Microwave Relocation Cost)
Sharing Clearinghouse)

WT Docket No. 95-157

PCIA MICROWAVE CLEARINGHOUSE
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

The PCIA Microwave Clearinghouse ("the Clearinghouse") hereby submits its fourth semi-annual report on its progress implementing the Federal Communications Commission's (the "Commission") microwave relocation cost sharing plan.¹

Clearinghouse Operations Since February 1, 1998

Since the previous semi-annual report, the Clearinghouse Board of Directors has met on five (5) occasions to review the on-going operations and policies of the Clearinghouse. In addition, the Clearinghouse's Technical Committee has considered in detail issues impacting (i) software enhancements; (ii) multi-party agreements and cost-sharing; and (iii) disaggregation and partitioning as they are handled by the Clearinghouse and its identification and computer processes.

Since February 1, 1998, the Clearinghouse has registered 101 additional transmitter links from PCS licensees, for a total of 2,286 links registered since the Clearinghouse began its operation. In addition, in the past six month period, the Clearinghouse has received additional PCNs for 7,732 base stations, for a total of 43,859 PCNs received to date. Since operation began, the Clearinghouse has identified 715 cost-sharing obligations, requiring

¹See Memorandum of Opinion and Order, WT Docket 95-157 at 12 (August 14, 1996).

amounts to be paid to parties who relocated those links. A number of those cost reimbursement obligations identified have involved second level reimbursement after the initial reimbursement obligation had previously been triggered by a PCS licensee. Finally, the Clearinghouse has now also registered the links of an incumbent microwave licensee for cost-sharing.

Pursuant to the study and recommendations of the Clearinghouse's Technical Task Force, the Board approved and the Clearinghouse began to implement improvements and refinements to the software used by the Clearinghouse in registering links, identifying reimbursement obligations, the processing of PCNs, and the processing of cost-sharing determinations when a multi-party relocation agreement is involved.

Alternate Dispute Resolution Matters

In addition to the on-going improvement in the Clearinghouse processes and functions, the primary effort of the Clearinghouse staff in the past six months has involved a number of cost-sharing disputes amongst various PCS licensees. The Clearinghouse dispute resolution Policies and Guidelines provided a means to work with the disputing parties in an effort to facilitate a resolution without the need for Commission action. The Clearinghouse is pleased to have played a major role in facilitating the voluntary settlement of a multi-million dollar cost-sharing reimbursement dispute, which involved Sprint PCS and Omnipoint. In other disputed reimbursement cases, where the parties were unable to reach an agreement, the Clearinghouse, after completing its Alternate Dispute Resolution Process, has submitted such disputes to the Commission for a decision.

Conclusion

The Clearinghouse has continued to review and refine its designated functions. During the last six months, the Clearinghouse staff has spent significant time and effort working with interested parties to help resolve a number of disputes involving cost-sharing reimbursement without the need for Commission action. The Clearinghouse anticipates within the next six months that its involvement in dispute resolution matters will continue on an active basis.

Respectfully Submitted,

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